

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08979 100019Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01
/067 W

-----013041 110106Z /63

R 090820Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2119

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8979

CALCUTTA 0957 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 9 JUN 78.
BEING RPT FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 0957

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT SOPN IN BG
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL AND OTHER REACTION IN WEST BENGAL TO ZIA'S
BANGLADESH PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY

REF: NEW DELHI 8800

1. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN WEST BENGAL ON PRESIDENT ZIA'S
ELECTORAL VICTORY IN BANGALDESH IS NOT GREATLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE REACTION OF THE NATIONAL PAPERS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL.

2. BOTH THE ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY AND ALLEGATIONS OF
RIGGING ARE GENERALLY MENTIONED BY THE PAPERS WHICH, IN
ADDITION TO THE STATESMAN, HAVE COMMENTED FORMALLY;
AMRITA BAZAR, HUNDUSTAN STANDARD, ANANDA BAZAR, JUGANTAR
AND SATYAJUG. ASIDE FROM JUGANTAR, WHICH IS THE MOST
NEGATIVE SAYING NO DICTATOR EVER LOSES, ZIA'S OVERWHELMING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08979 100019Z

MARGIN IS FULLY RECOGNIZED, AND IT IS CONSIDERED
SUFFICIENTLY LARGE THAT ZIA'S WIN CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY
HIS USE OF DOUBTFUL TACTICS. GENERAL ZIA'S PERSONAL
POPULARITY AS A SOLIDER OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE IS
ACKNOWLEDGED, AND THE PLEBICITE IS ALSO CALLED
"A VOTE AGAINST ANY FUTHER TURMOIL, DISORDER
AND UNCERTAINTY, OF WHICH BANGLADESH HAS HAD A

SURFIET IN THE PAST THREE YEARS". AMRITA NOTES ZIA'S "ANTI-INDIA PLATFORM" BUT SEES NOTHING NEW IN IT, AND OBSERVES THAT IT HAS NOT PREVENTED HIM FROM SEEKING GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH INDIA. WITH SOME PRESSIMINISM AS TO WHAT CAN BE ACTUALLY EXPECTED, THE HOPE IS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THAT ZIA WILL CONTINUE THE CIVILIANIZING AND DEMOCRATIZING TREND OF HIS REGIME, AND IT IS OBSERVED THAT IF HE CAN GIVE BANGLADESH A FUTHER PERIOD OF POLITICAL STABILITY AND SOME ECONOMIC ADVANCE, HE WILL BE IN A VERY STRONG POSITION.

3. THE ABOVE, ALTHOUGH ITSELF A LITTLE JAUNDICED, IS PROBABLY MORE THE POLITE, THAN THE GENUINE WEST BENGAL (I.E. BENGALI HINDU) REACTION. NEITHER THE STATE GOVERNMENT NOR PUBLIC OPINION HERE WISHES FUTHER INSTABILITY AND DISORDER IN BANGLADESH, WITH THEIR POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF FRESH LARGE REFUGEE MOVEMENTS INTO INDIA. HOWEVER, ZIA IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED AN AUTOCRAT, AND IS LOOKED UPON AS TOO MUCH MUSLIM AND TOO LITTLE BENGALI IN STYLE AND OUTLOOK TO BE WARNLY APPRECIATED ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER. IN LINE WITH THIS, WE UNDERSTAND MOST WEST BENGALIS WOULD ATTRIBUTE HIS TRIUMP, IF NOT TO RIGGING THEN AT LEAST TO MANIPULATIVE RATHER THAN CONSULTATIVE POLITICS, AND GREET IT WITHOUT GREAT RELISH.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08979 100019Z

LYDON

UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE08979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-1008
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780676/aaaacnpg.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bad6428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 8800
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2416555
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL AND OTHER REACTION IN WEST BENGAL TO ZIA'S BANGLADESH PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, IN, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bad6428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014